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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement issued on 3 January 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the latest developments on the Tajik-Afghan border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 3 January 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

At a briefing for members of the local and foreign press, held on 3 January 1995, the chief of the Department of Information of the Department of Foreign Policy of Tajikistan, Mr. Zafar Saidov, read out the following text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan:

"Developments on the Tajik-Afghan border have given rise to our concern and anxiety in connection with the continuing attempts by detachments of the Tajik opposition to cross the border illegally, the incessant shelling of units of Russian border troops and individual groups of border guards, and other hostile acts perpetrated at the border by fighters of the Tajik opposition.

"On 2 January 1995, a group of fighters of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan under the command of Junaydullo, seized four local residents of the border settlement of Kurzovad in Darvaz district of Gorny Badakhshan Autonomous Region, one of whom was blown up by a mine. A strengthened Russian border detail on an armoured infantry vehicle went to the aid of the civilian population but was shelled by recoilless guns from the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. As a result, six Russian border guards were killed and several were wounded and the armoured infantry vehicle was put out of action. As the Russian border reserve advanced, mines that had been laid in the road exploded. The fire positions of the fighters across the border were neutralized by a retaliatory attack by the Russian border guards.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan has reliable information that among those involved in the aforementioned bandit raid were mercenary fighters who have received special terrorist training and who are being paid by countries of the Asian region. It is obvious that the provocation was in contravention of the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and had a specific purpose: to derail efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict.

"At the same time, the leaders of the intransigent Tajik opposition are seeking to give world public opinion a false picture of the activities of Russian border guards, accusing them of carrying out preventive attacks, violating the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and detaining armed members of the opposition.

"In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan has been authorized to state that the activities of Russian border guards are restricted to the performance of tasks necessary for the

safeguarding of the Tajik-Afghan border; such actions do not contradict the inter-Tajik Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire.

"The legal basis for the presence of Russian border troops in Tajikistan is the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan on the Legal Status of the Border Troops of the Russian Federation Situated in the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, which was signed in Moscow on 25 May 1993.

"In accordance with that Agreement, questions related to the safeguarding of the State border with Afghanistan within the territory of Tajikistan are delegated to the border troops of the Russian Federation.

"In their activities to protect the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Russian border troops are guided by the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan and legislative and other normative acts of the Russian Federation in so far as they do not contradict the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

"The border troops of the Russian Federation are performing their duties involved in the safeguarding of the border in accordance with the principle of neutrality. Weapons and fighting equipment are used by border troops only in response to the use of weapons by persons who violate the border and armed groups. Since the Agreement entered into force, the border troops have engaged in measures to uphold the security regime of the State border, which was established in a treaty between the Governments.

"The border troops suppress any attempts to violate the border and transport weapons or narcotic drugs across it, and they detain persons who have violated, or have attempted to violate, the border, irrespective of whether such persons are supporters or opponents.

"The Russian border troops are doing everything possible to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

"During the meetings held yesterday between representatives of the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan with representatives of Afghan border troops and officials of the Afghan border areas, the latter declared that they would prohibit illegal acts perpetrated by fights of the intransigent Tajik opposition from the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. However, to all appearances, they are not really in control of the situation but are merely the tool of the most intransigent faction of the Tajik opposition, and they are letting their territory be used as a base for armed raids and illegal acts at the border.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan wishes to draw the attention of the leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the continuing provocations by fighters of the intransigent Tajik opposition at various points along the Tajik-Afghan border and, in that connection, the Ministry has been authorized to lodge a protest from the Tajik side, reserving the right of that side to suppress such aggressive

acts with all vigour firmness and maintain the established border security regime.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan appeals to the States parties to the Treaty on Collective Security to take additional steps to strengthen and safeguard the Tajik-Afghan sector of the southern borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States."

At a briefing of chiefs of the information service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan stated that a group of official representatives had been sent to Darvaz district of Gorny Badakhshan Autonomous Region to the place where the incident occurred; the group included the Deputy Minister of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, Major-General A. S. Kuznetsov, the commander of the border troops of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan, Mr. A. T. Chechulin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan, Mr. M. I. Senkevich, United Nations military observers and members of the joint commission to monitor the observance of the inter-Tajik Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire.

(Signed) Z. SAIDOV